

ARSENIC IN RHEUMATISM.

LETTER FROM SAMUEL WATSON, Esq.

SIR,—In your last number I observe a letter from Mr. Wheatcroft on the subject of arsenic. He inquires if anyone has tried its effects upon chronic rheumatism. I am happy to give him an interesting case in which I put the virtues of this mineral to the test.

My patient was a man of sixty, and had been a sufferer from repeated acute attacks of rheumatism, affecting the principal joints, which are enlarged and distorted, and the tendinous structures of the spine and back of the neck, which are rendered permanently rigid, for more than twenty years.

In July last I was called in to see him; he complained of severe pain in the occipital region, and also, but to a less amount, in both knees and ankles; the pain in the head was unremitting, and so intense as almost to deprive him of all repose, and the stricken expression of his countenance sufficiently evinced how much he suffered. Loss of sleep and all appetite for food had so reduced his strength, that it was with difficulty he could leave his bed for an hour or two in the middle of the day. With a patient so shattered and frail I could but pursue a soothing and tonic system of treatment, which I persevered in up to the end of October, and without affording any benefit whatever.

Counter-irritation gave no relief, neither was pain subdued by the various preparations of opium which I employed. The tonics, from which he had formerly benefited, asserted no good effect. Quinine, hydriodate of potass, and decoction of sarsaparilla, were alike unavailing. Under these circumstances I bethought me of the arsenical solution, of which I prescribed four drops to be taken thrice daily. This was now the beginning of November, and the appearance and general condition of my patient was such as to induce me to anticipate, at no long period, fatal exhaustion under so much suffering. After one week of the arsenical treatment, it was impossible to deny that some improvement had taken place. At the end of the second week, the change for the better was very decided; and at the end of the month my patient was able to walk to his usual place of worship, nearly a quarter of a mile distant from his house. He is now looking better than I have seen him for years; his complexion is amazingly improved; his ex-sanguine appearance having totally vanished before the wonderful energy directed to the capillary system by this medicine. He now sleeps comfortably, and eats heartily; and although the weather of late has not been favourable, he has not been prevented taking an occasional walk, and visiting his friends, who regard his recovery with somewhat akin to wonder.

I am, etc., SAMUEL WATSON.

Cottingham, Jan. 10th, 1856.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

**In these lists an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association. That this department may be accurate, ample, and early in its information, the assistance of Members is requested.*

BIRTHS.

COOPER, G. F., M.D., the wife of—a son—at New Brentford, on January 9th.

*HALLEY, Alexander, M.D., of Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, the wife of—a son—on January 13th.

MCCLURE, William G., M.D., of Yarley Hall, Suffolk, the wife of—a son—at 18, Blomfield Street, Westbourne Terrace North, on January 9th.

*POWELL, Henry, M.D., of Coventry, the wife of—a daughter—on January 11th.

THOMPSON, John B., Esq., Surgeon, of Ramsgate, the wife of—a daughter—on January 15th.

MARRIAGES.

ACKLAND—LOTT. ACKLAND, William Henry, Esq., Surgeon, of Bideford, Devon, at Charles Church, Plymouth, to SOPHIA DILLON LOTT, of Wentworth Villa, Mannanead, Plymouth, daughter of the late EDWARD LOTT, Esq., banker, of Honiton.

JAMES—CRANG. JAMES, Rev. Charles, of Timsbury, near Bath, by the Rev. C. T. C. Trelawny, to ELIZABETH LAWRENCE, eldest daughter of *JAMES CRANG, Esq., of Timsbury, on January 8th.

JONES—NEWHOUSE. JONES, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Fletching, Sussex, to MARY, only surviving daughter of the late Colonel CHARLES NEWHOUSE, R.A., on January 9th.

DEATHS.

*BRANFOOT, J. H., M.D., of Brighton—Jane, wife of, aged 42, on January 10th.

FLUDER, Charles, M.D., of Lymington, Hants—Sibylla Jane, wife of, aged 48, on January 10th.

PARKER, Henry, M.D., of Overton, Flintshire, aged 68, on January 8th.

*TOMKINS, William, M.D., of Yeovil, Somerset, lately.

WILSON, John, Esq., Surgeon, of York, aged 72, on November 8th, 1855. He was for six years House-Surgeon at the County Hospital, and subsequently, for forty-six years, apothecary to the York Dispensary. Among other charitable bequests, he has left £1,000 to the York Dispensary, and £100 to the York County Hospital.

APPOINTMENTS.

BRISTOWE, J. S., M.D., elected Medical Officer of Health to the parish of Camberwell.

BRUNELL, Matthew, Esq., Surgeon, appointed Surgeon to the Morpeth County Gaol, in the room of the late *Robert Hawdon, Esq.

DOBNEY, Bonamy, Esq., chosen President of Guy's Hospital, at a General Court of the Governors, held at the hospital, on Wednesday, January 9th, in the room of the late Mr. Charles Barclay, deceased.

*HUNT, Thomas, Esq., elected Medical Officer of Health to the united parishes of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. George, Bloomsbury.

*LANKESTER, Edwin, M.D., F.R.S., elected Medical Officer of Health to the parish of St. James, Westminster.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. FELLOWS admitted at a meeting of the Council, on Thursday, Jan. 10th:—

A'BECKETT, Arthur Martin, Sydney: diploma of membership dated March 9th, 1838

ASHLEY, William Henry, Notting Hill: August 28th, 1840

BLAKE, Valentine Walshman, Birmingham: June 5th, 1840

BROWN, Henry John, Wilmington Square: June 29th, 1840

CHRISTOPHERS, John Crouch, York Street, Portman Square: October 30th, 1840

FROST, C. Maynard, Ladbroke Square: June 30th, 1837

HALFORD, Edward, Hammersmith: July 10th, 1840

HALKYARD, Henry, Oldham: May 18th, 1840

HOLDING, Charles, New Bridge Street: July 23rd, 1830

HUSBAND, William Dalla, York: January 5th, 1838

MADDEN, Richard Robert, Rathmines, Dublin: February 10th, 1829

OTLEY, John, Maidstone: January 7th, 1831

PARSONS, John, Bridgewater: February 19th, 1836

ROGERS, John Henry, East Grinstead: August 10th, 1838

SCALES, William Henry, Madras Army: Nov. 6th, 1840

SLYMAN, Wm., Newtown, Montgomeryshire: April 2nd, 1830

SNEE, Alfred, Finsbury Circus: April 24th, 1840

WELLS, John Robinson, Russell Place, Fitzroy Square: May 3rd, 1837

WELLS, Richard Forester, Artillery Place: July 27th, 1838

At the same meeting of the Council—

ATCHERLEY, John, of Liverpool, a member of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, was admitted an *ad eundem* member of the College.

MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on Friday, January 11th:—

AYENT, Nicholas, Modbury, Devon

CUFF, Robert, Burton Pynsent, Somerset

DEANE, John Edward, Newcastle-on-Tyne

DUNCAN, Peter Charles, Cambridge Street, Golden Square

FROESHER, Martin, Harrogate

HOW, Alexander John McDonald, Berwick-upon-Tweed

JAY, William, Norwich

JOYNT, Christopher, Ballina, co. Mayo, Ireland

MURRAY, Gustavus Charles Philip, Trinidad, West Indies